

CRIME VICTIM SERVICES COMMISSION

Meeting – February 22, 2021

MINUTES

*****Approved*****

Brian Mackie, Chairperson, called the Crime Victim Services Commission meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. on February 22, 2021 on a remote Zoom virtual meeting.

Present:

Commission Members:

William Fales
Victor Fitz
Karen Gray Sheffield
Robin Hornbuckle
Brian Mackie

Staff Members:

Jess Averill, Policy Analyst
Shalonna Banks, Departmental Analyst
Katherine Bennett, Assistant Attorney General
Michael Bobbitt, Secretary
Debi Cain, Director of Victim Services
Emily Ely, Claims Analyst
James McCurtis, CVSC Manager
Angela Povilaitis, Staff Attorney
Robert Spada, Staff Attorney
Janine Washburn, Compensation Program Manager

Introductions were made by the Commissioners members. Mr. Fitz provided an overview of the Crime Victim Services program and explained how the remote Zoom meeting would proceed.

Approval of Agenda - Mr. Mackie made a motion, supported by Dr. Fales to approve the February 22, 2021 agenda as written. The motion carried.

Public Comment - No public comments.

Approval of Open Session Minutes – Ms. Gray Sheffield made a motion, supported by Mr. Mackie to approve the open session minutes from the January 25, 2021 meeting as written. The motion carried.

Approval of Closed Session Minutes - Mr. Mackie made a motion, supported by Ms. Hornbuckle to approve the closed session minutes from the January 25, 2021 meeting as written. The motion carried.

Staff Report - Ms. Banks spoke about providing education on the roles and responsibilities of hospitals in relation to the Michigan statute regarding sexual assault forensic exams. Ms. Banks discussed options for making victims' aware of where and how to obtain sexual assault forensic exams. One option is to conduct an ad campaign informing victims that sexual assault forensic exams are free of cost to them.

Ms. Banks said the Navigator pilot program training has been completed in Wayne, Muskegon, Genesee, Ogemaw, Alpena, Iosco, Alcona, and Presque Isle Counties. A refresher training is scheduled for Thursday February 25, 2021 to go over some highlights of the compensation program. An email forum has also been set up for Navigators to ask questions. Statistical data is

being collected through the Electronic Grants Administration and Management System (EGrAMS).

Ms. Cain said the hiring freeze for state employees has ended and vacant positions at the Division of Victim Services can now be filled.

An audit with the Department of Justice has been completed for the Division of Victim Services. The findings of the audit will be provided in the future and Commission members will have the opportunity to provide feedback.

Ms. Cain noted how nice it has been to have the opportunity to find out more about the work that is done with CASAs, and appreciates the opportunity to work with Patty Sabin, President/CEO of Michigan CASA. Ms. Cain discussed the possibility of DVS being able to provide some funding to assist CASAs in addressing confidentiality issues and shortfalls; however, it was decided that DVS will allow CASA contracts to expire as of September 30, 2021 and no longer be funded.

Ms. Cain mentioned that she has been involved in discussions with legislators, especially working closing with Representative Whiteford, regarding funding human trafficking services. Ms. Cain said DVS has been planning to put out an application this fall for VOCA grant funding specific to human trafficking services that would go into effect in early 2022. Ms. Cain is excited to work with legislators and the Human Trafficking Health Advisory Board, located within DVS, to address the needs of survivors of human trafficking.

Mr. Spada discussed renegotiating the Appriss contract regarding data collection and confidentiality concerns with the MI-VINE system. Appriss was questioned about the incarceration and booking data they collect. It was determined that data is being shared or marketed by Appriss so that aspect of the contract is still being negotiated. Mr. Spada and Mr. McCurtis are also going through all the scripts used by Appriss to make it simpler for victims to understand.

Report of the Members - None.

Unfinished Business - None.

New Business -

A. Appeals - None.

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2021.

Karen Gray Sheffield made a motion, supported by Ms. Hornbuckle, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 10:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Bobbitt

